

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an optical switch for making part of incident light, which has been made incident on an optical waveguide, selectively emergent to a light emergence portion provided outside the optical waveguide. The optical switch includes a liquid crystal device for selective emergence of the incident light. An arbitrary layer of the liquid crystal device is set such that letting Δn be a difference between a refractive index n_0 of the optical waveguide and a refractive index n_1 of the arbitrary layer of the liquid crystal device, "d" be a thickness of the arbitrary layer, and λ be a wavelength of the incident light, the values of Δn , "d", and λ satisfy a condition of $2.20 \times 10^{-3} \leq |\Delta n \cdot d \cdot \lambda^{-1}| \leq 3.03 \times 10^{-3}$. With this optical switch, the uniformity of a light emergence efficiency can be easily realized by making use of a small change region in which the light emergence efficiency is not largely varied. The present invention also provides a display unit using the optical switches.